GENA2212
Debates in Human Values

Lecture: Wednesday, 2:30pm – 4:15pm
Venue: NAH 213
Lecturer: Dr FAMING, Manynooch; Office hour: By Appointment
Email: nychma@cuhk.edu.hk

Course Description

This course discusses the ongoing issues under modernity and globalized world context. Within these contexts people share similar ‘values’, such as education, economy, freedom, sentiment, taste, beliefs, etc. that one holds to ‘oneself’ and/or to/against ‘others’. The course also leads students to discuss how and why we have come to hold certain values. Through a socio-cultural perspective, the course introduces several fundamental themes and debates in human values. The course provides no black or white answers and/or values but to provide students with analytical skills to these debates.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:
1. Develop a reflexive skill in understanding human values;
2. Critically reflect and self-reflect values in one’s own and/or a cross-cultural context;
3. Apply key theoretical concepts to analyze values in one’s own context and/or cross-culturally.

Course Requirements

1. In class:
   A. Class Participation: 15%
   B. Group Presentation: 20%

2. Independent Projects:
   C. 3 Reflexive Memos: 30%
   D. Final Paper: 35%
Course Assessments details

A. Class Participation (including attendance)  15%
   • **Readings**
     - Having done the readings and brought them to class
     - Bring your reading notes
   • **Discussion**
     - Share your thoughts and questions in class
     - Volunteer answers to others’ questions
     - Volunteer to respond to the blackboard discussion post
   • **Commenting on group’s presentation**
     Each student will contribute to the group comments to the presentation. Please note that the grades given by you will affect the presenters’ grade as well as your own.

B. Group Presentation  20%
   You will be assigned into a group of 4-5. Each group will have to choose a topic discussing issues on values as an individual, economic, political, gender, religious belief, society, etc. This will be conducted in each week of the class meeting. Please submit your presentation file to me either before class or by the end of your presentation.

C. 3 Reflexive memos  30%
   Each student will submit a reflection of between 500-800 words. You will reflect on one or two values from the cases discussed during the class or on your own readings listed in this course. *A few samples of reflection are available on Blackboard. Submission before class. The due dates are Week 4, 6 and 8.*

D. Final Essay  35%
   Students will write a 6-8 page final paper (or about between 1,500-2,000 words) that draws on careful reading of and conversation with class themes and texts to critically analyze and advance debates in human values. The paper is not meant to give definite answers or judgments to the debates, but to demonstrate students’ intellectual skills in approaching the debates.
   - **Note 1:** The paper is due on **Friday, 7 December 2018.**
   - **Note 2:** Submit a soft copy (with the signed VeriGuide receipt) to Blackboard.
   - **Note 3:** Save your final paper in **Word format**, and scan your signed VeriGuide receipt into PDF format. The final paper and the VeriGuide receipt should be uploaded as two separate files.
   - **Note 4:** Please name your final paper file **2212Final Paper Last name First name**, and your VeriGuide receipt file **2212VeriGuide Last name First name**.

The both reflections and final papers are to be **double-spaced and in 12-point font, Word Format. No PDF format.** Please follow the Anthropology Department citation style at [http://arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~ant/en/dept_thesis_style.php](http://arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~ant/en/dept_thesis_style.php). Late assignments will be penalized. If for valid reasons you need to have your assignment re-scheduled, please be sure to make a timely request.

The university adopts a policy of zero tolerance on plagiarism. Any use of another person’s words or ideas, taken directly or paraphrased, without citing the source is plagiarism. This includes taking material from the Internet without citing the website. Please consult the university’s policy on academic honesty at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/).

Students are required by university policy to submit soft copies of all papers to VeriGuide. Please check the website www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide for information on how to submit papers through VeriGuide. Please submit a soft copy of your final paper (Word document) together with the signed VeriGuide receipt page (PDF) to Blackboard.
Weekly schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 5) – Introduction: Hamlet and the Tiv

Week 2 (Sept. 12) – Who are we?

Optional:

Theme I: Disgust, Forbidden, Unthinkable

Week 3 (Sept. 19) – Animals and Us

Optional:

Week 4 (Sept. 26) – Dead or Alive?

*Film screening: A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness*

Optional:

Week 5 (Oct. 3) – Violence or Peace

Optional:


Week 6 (Oct. 10) – Sexuality: Unthinkable Pleasure or Forbidden Sin?

Optional:


Week 7 (Oct. 17) Chung Yeung Festival (No Class)

Theme II – Human Values in A Modern Economic World

Week 8 (Oct. 24– Education for Who and for What?


Optional:


SCMP staff, 12 Aug 2017, “Brainwashing: What is it and how effective can it be?,”
EDB, “Moral-National Education Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 to Secondary 6),

Week 9 (Oct. 31) – Work as Lifestyle?

Optional:
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/30/opinion/sunday/rethinking-work.html?ref=opinion

Week 10 (Nov. 7) -- Leisure for Social Classes?

Optional:

Week 11 (Nov. 14) -- Hong Kong Core Values: Which ones are they?

Optional:


Week 12 (Nov. 21) – Freedom of Speech

Guest Speaker: Dr. Joseph Chan, Veteran Journalist.


Optional:
https://doi.org/10.1080/08997225.1995.10556183


Week 13 (Nov. 28) – Group Presentations
Each group will be given a 20min. + 10min. Q&A time allowance. The orders of the groups will be randomly assigned.

Week 14 (Dec. 5) – Group Presentations (cont.) + Conclusion